



DEMONSTRATION

On Saturday, December 10 the club was opened up for a demonstration of Amateur Radio to the Wellesley Boy Rangers. Some fifty boys and fathers crammed into the meeting room for the showing of a film about Amateur Radio, then were split into two groups. One group remained in the meeting room and were told more of what Amateur Radio is all about. The other group was shown into W1TKZ where a live demonstration was conducted.

The lecture portion was conducted by Art Thompson, KALENP, Tom Burton, N1BCQ, and Skid Schermerhorn, W1TTY. Art was the discussion leader while Skid provided a tape of the recent Space Shuttle communications and Tom demonstrated his QRP station.

The on-the-air demonstration was conducted by Nels Anderson, K1UR, and Gary Weissel, KALJWE. An attempt was made to attract a QSO on HF but other than a brief contest contact there was no luck with either group. Two meters was more successful. The boys had been given some of the radiogram forms used at the message fair and several

of their messages were passed to KALEXJ. One boy in each group also got a chance to talk on the air.

The boys and fathers seemed to enjoy themselves and the hour and a half just flew by. Thanks to Art Thompson for making the arrangements and to all the others who participated.



Nels Anderson, K1UR, demonstrates HF to the Wellesley Boy Rangers.

ANNOUNCEMENT

For our two meetings this month we have programs covering the oldest and the newest forms of Amateur communications. At the January 5 meeting we will have George Downs, W1CT, talk on the history of Morse communications and CW, with an emphasis on the spark gap days. This will give you a chance to see what it was like in the old days. On January 19, we will have a videotape on the subject of Packet Radio which is a form of digital communications using computers that ensures perfect copy. This is in preparation for a full-fledged talk and demonstration of Packet Radio at our February 2 meeting.

MEETINGS THIS MONTH:

January 5, 1984, at 7:30 p.m.
January 19, 1984, at 7:30 p.m.
211 Washington St., Wellesley

NEW CLUB MEMBERS

This month we would like to welcome the following new members. They are Norman Rice, KALKJO, of Natick; Carolanne Fisher, WALRNM, of Needham; and Doris Fisher, WALWPI, of Needham. Also welcome back to John Turell, WALZLO, of Wellesley. I hope we will have a chance to meet all of you at a meeting sometime soon.

education corner



We have quite a bit of activity to report in our education programs. The General class ended in mid-December with a couple of review sessions. Due to the cut-back in FCC testing dates, they will not be able to take the test until February. The class finished up with about ten people and we wish them the best of luck on the test.

The Extra class seminar is continuing and will go until April. Each evening one of the class members covers one topic for the rest of the class. By the end of the seminar, all topics on the Extra exam will have been covered. If you would like to join in the seminar, it is held at the club on Wednesday nights starting at 7:00 p.m.

Finally, our Novice class begins this month. The first meeting will be January 9 and classes will be held each Monday thereafter starting at 7:00 p.m. If you know of anyone who is interested in getting started in Amateur Radio, please tell them about the class. For more information, please contact Art Thompson, KALENP, at 235-5509.

WARS NET

Due to some conflicts, the W.A.R.S. net has been off the air for most of December. Net Manager Erik Thoresen, KLOGF, decided to cancel the net during the days it conflicted with the Message Fair since it was expected

that he as well as all the others who had been helping at the mall would not be able to get on in time. Then, the two Sundays after the message fair were Christmas day and New Years day, so these nets were cancelled as well. The next meeting of the W.A.R.S. net will be on Sunday, January 8, 1984 at 7:00 p.m. If you have never checked in before please try to during January. This is a good chance to meet your fellow club members especially if you cannot make many of the meetings.

ELECTRONICS



EXCHANGE

FOR SALE: Kenwood TS-660 quadbander, 15, 12, 10, 6 meters. AM, FM, CW, SSB at 10 watts. Dual VFOs (good for repeaters). Asking \$475. Contact Arnie Adelman, WLGCI, at 838-2688.

FOR SALE: Yaesu 301AD transceiver with matching external VFO and power supply/speaker/digital clock. It has a premium quality 500 Hz CW filter installed. \$475. Contact Mort Cohan, KALIU, at 359-7979.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:

Nels Anderson, K1UR, 872-5259

VICE PRESIDENT:

David Curry, K1TK, 237-2450

RECORDING SECRETARY:

David Kent, N2AWG, 647-9334

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:

Allan Bacon, K1BA, 749-4382

TREASURER:

C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM, 332-6091

FUND RAISING:

Kevin Kelly, W4LYHV, 242-0341

OPERATING ACTIVITIES:

Erik Thoresen, KLOGF, 655-7048

EDUCATION CHAIRMAN:

Art Thompson, KALENP, 235-5509

STATION MANAGER:

Bob Drapeau, K1LK, 883-1132

REPEATER COMMITTEE:

Tom Kinahan, N1CPE, 899-5924

The Spark Gap

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society



EDITOR:

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THE "SPARK GAP" IS A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY. ITS PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO KEEP ITS MEMBERS ABBREAST OF CURRENT HAPPENINGS, FCC RULES AND REGULATIONS CHANGES, AND TO LIST EQUIPMENT OFFERED FOR SALE OR TRADE BY MEMBERS. MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE "SPARK GAP" AND MAY SEND THEIR ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR. ITEMS PRINTED IN THE "SPARK GAP" MAY BE REPRINTED BY OTHER AMATEUR RADIO PUBLICATIONS PROVIDED THE AUTHOR AND THE "SPARK GAP" ARE GIVEN CREDIT.

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF AMATEUR RADIO THROUGH INSTRUCTION, FELLOWSHIP, DEMONSTRATION, AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF PARTICIPATION. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY IS \$8.00. THE CLUB YEAR RUNS SEPTEMBER 1 TO AUGUST 31. AMATEUR NOVICE AND GENERAL CLASSES ARE CONDUCTED REGULARLY AT NO COST. TO ENROLL IN A CLASS, OR GAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOCIETY IN GENERAL, WRITE:

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
211 WASHINGTON STREET
WELLESLEY HILLS, MASS. 02181



MINUTES

Meeting of November 17, 1983:

The meeting was opened at 7:41 p.m. by President Nels Anderson, KIUR, with about 25 present.

The secretary's report was given.

The treasurer's report was given. No major expenditures this month.

Sweepstakes operation was discussed. We have the O.K. for antennas and will put them up Saturday and operate through Sunday.

Volunteers were again requested for the Boy Rangers demonstration on December 10. We are expecting 25 boys and 15 parents and have about five volunteers.

Tom Kinahan, N1CPE, gave a report

on the repeater. The town has been giving us trouble again but we have once again put off any major problems.

A question was asked as to who would be organizing public service activities such as the Marathon. It was reported that Dick Paret, W1ZLQ, would still be doing them despite his moving.

Erik Thoresen, K1OGF, gave a detailed report on what we would be doing for the Framingham Mall Message Fair. Included were set up details, hours of operation, items needed, etc. He also passed around a sign up sheet.

The business portion of the meeting was closed at 8:18 p.m. The remainder of the evening was devoted to a talk on traffic handling by the Eastern Massachusetts Section Traffic Manager, Marcia Osborn, K1GBS.

Hamnews

The man who gave new direction to our ARRL has died. Victor C. Clark, W4KFC, President of the League, passed away at about 10:30 p.m. on Friday, November 25th, after suffering a massive heart attack. Vic had gone to the hospital on Thanksgiving Day complaining of chest pains; he was there when the fatal attack occurred. For several years, Vic had a history of heart problems, but he never let it stand in the way of expressing his love for Amateur Radio by working towards its survival and prosperity on a day by day basis.

Vic held an Extra Class license and was the first recipient of the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Award. He served as Roanoke Division Director for eight years, and another six years as an ARRL Vice President before ascending to the League's presidency in 1982.

ARRL First Vice President Carl Smith, W0BWJ, will serve as acting League President until a permanent successor is chosen by the Board of Directors; new elections were already scheduled for March 26-27.

Westlink Report, December 2, 1983

MESSAGE FAIR

by Nels Anderson, KLUR

Despite a less than perfect location, the 1983 Message Fair was still quite successful. The Framingham Mall, being much smaller than the Natick Mall where we used to be, had fewer shoppers and thus fewer potential customers. In addition, our location inside the mall was probably the worst one available, since the paying customers were given first priority. Despite all this, we generated over 300 messages and helped keep the traffic handlers busy.



Message Fair operators WB1BUM, K1OGF and K1IKW.

This years Message Fair was coordinated by Erik Thoresen, K1OGF, who is to be commended for the fine job he did. Having to find a new location this year, and then figure out how to set up there made his job more difficult than it has been for several years. The resulting set-up, greatly simplified over past years due to space restrictions, was very attractive and served our needs adequately.

The initial set-up of antennas actually took place a week before the

Message Fair started. On Saturday, December 3, Erik and a crew of helpers scaled the mall roof and installed an 80 meter dipole and 2 meter vertical. The cables were left on the roof waiting to be hooked up the next week.

When the first day of operation rolled around on December 10, it was an easy job to attach the antenna cables and run them down a hall to our operating location. The runs turned out to be so long that the amount of cable needed was underestimated but a couple of quick trips fixed that problem. To reach the roof some 350 feet of cable was used on 80 meters and over 200 feet on 2 meters. Despite the tremendous line losses we managed to work everyone we needed to.

The first weekend seemed to go rather slowly, especially for those used to the heavy business we used to do. The highlight was when a Channel 7 news crew showed up just before closing time on Sunday. We ended up in a several minute segment on the 11:00 p.m. news.

The second weekend, especially Sunday seemed busier. On Saturday we made the news again, appearing in a brief segment on the Channel 5 news at 6:00 p.m.

So, although our message count was down, the operation was still a success. We did generate quite a bit of traffic, plus handed out many fliers for our Novice class, told a lot of people about Amateur Radio, generated some publicity for the hobby and ourselves, and introduced some club members to traffic handling. In addition we had a good time doing it.

Thanks to all those traffic handlers who helped take messages and to those who operated from the mall: Erik Thoresen, K1OGF; Nels Anderson, KLUR; Tom Kinahan, N1CPE; Bill Hanlon, N1ADY; Bill Downing, W1LPQY; Mort Cohan, K1LIU; Kevin Kelly, W1YHV; C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM; Bob Drapeau, K1IK and his son Paul; Gary Weissel, K1JWE; Mike Weissel, K1IKW; Allan Bacon, K1BA; Dave Kent, N2AWG; Art Thompson, K1ENP.

STATION ACTIVITIES

by Nels Anderson, K1UR

For the first time in several years we put together a Sweepstakes operation from W1TKZ. The weekend of November 19 and 20 saw a flurry of activity at the club as antennas were raised and radios put on the air.

Previous to Sweepstakes, the only antenna was an 80 meter dipole. Early on Saturday morning, a crew of people took it down, turned it into a five band trap dipole, and raised it up in the trees higher than it had been before. In addition, a tri-band beam was set up Field Day style on a forty foot tower in the grass next to the building. Despite some confusion requiring several trips to the fire station where most of the antenna stuff is stored, we were on the air for the 4:00 p.m. start of the contest.

The entire installation was not finished until just after dark, but this was just in time for supper which resulted in a large pizza order. Quite a few people stayed during the evening, but by midnight we were down to just four diehard operators. We managed to stay awake until after 5:00 a.m. with some good conditions especially on forty meters where Hawaii was worked in the early morning hours. For the off duty operators, entertainment was provided by K1BA's video tape movie library.

We didn't quite operate the whole 24 hours allowed, due to some off time Sunday morning and because we took down the tower before it got dark Sunday afternoon. Still we managed to get 68 out of a possible 74 sections along with 286 QSO's for a total score of 38,896 points. Not up with the big guns but a good learning experience for several new operators.

Operators were K1BA, K1JWE, N1ADY, K1UR, N1CPE, K1IKW, WB8TDA, K1TK. Additional help setting up and taking down was provided by W1HRV, W1TTY, K1TK, W1EDF, K1OGF, W1BUM, N1BCQ,

W1ZLQ. (I hope I haven't forgotten anybody.) Also thanks to W1HRV for the loan of his amplifier for the weekend.

Space Shuttle

"The operation is an unqualified success!" said ARRL General Manager Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, of W5LFL's Amateur Radio operation from the Space Shuttle Columbia. "We are thrilled with the active participation from the Amateur Radio community and the interest demonstrated by the public at large. We are proud that Amateur Radio has played a role in bringing active participation in the space program to the average citizens of the world."

Many Amateurs across the country were able to hear Owen Garriott as the Shuttle passed within range. On some passes it was possible to hear W5LFL with nothing more than a handie-talkie. Apparently, the noise level in the Shuttle made it difficult to copy people calling and as a result, W5LFL acknowledged very few callsigns. However, he tape recorded everything and should be able to recognize more calls when the tape is played back.

In the local area, the uplink frequencies were jammed during each pass. Several club members, including W1TTY, K1IU, N1CPE, N1ADY, W1HRV, K1JWE, K1UR and probably others attempted to work the Shuttle and most at least heard it. Mort, K1IU, provided accurate orbit times for the local area using the tracking program he developed. This was a great help in knowing exactly when to listen. Skid, W1TTY, tape recorded W5LFL on several orbits and played the tape over the repeater several times.

The Amateur Radio operation from the Shuttle apparently was given good media attention as one of the most commonly asked questions at the Message Fair was "Did you hear the Shuttle?" Tom Burton, N1BCQ, was contacted by the Wellesley "Townsmen" and provided them with information about the Shuttle operation. He also got

them in touch with W1TTY who provided them additional information as well as a demonstration.

The ARRL is serving as W5LFL's QSL Manager. Cards are available for anyone who worked or heard W5LFL by sending an SASE with the details to ARRL Hq, STS-9, 225 Main Street, Newington, Conn. 06111. Mark the outer envelope with "two-way" or "reception report." Thanks "ARRL Letter."

CHUCKLE KORNLER

TRACES OF ANCIENT 20M BAND UNEARTHED

from GEARVAKf, via ARNS

As the result of a "hush-hush" archeological project carried out in the sub-Saharan nation of Afrodesia, the world's oldest fossil record of the 20 meter band has been discovered intact in a dry river bed north of the Afrodesian capitol city of Capital. According to Chief Archeologist Dr. Ordovician K. Trilobite, of the well known National Tropographic Society, tests using radio-carbon dating have proven beyond doubt that the 20 meter band is far older than the earliest known crystal sets. This stunning scientific discovery has given the "Theory of Ham Evolution" by Karl Sparx a serious setback.

Hamnews

The ARRL says that it is now seeking status as the "National Volunteer Examination Coordinator" for the administration of Amateur exams based on Congressional approval of HR-2755.

The 1984 FCC Authorization Bill contains an amendment that permits the charging of fees to reimburse out of pocket expenses incurred by those serving in the program. The legislation was recently signed by President Reagan.

Westlink Report, December 2, 1983

A new Washington area representative for the ARRL has been named.

Captain Charles Dorian, W3JPT, is an active ARRL life member who has served on the League's Long Range Planning Committee as well as on numerous U.S. international conference delegations, including WARC '79. He recently retired from Comsat General Corporation.

Westlink Report, December 2, 1983

The land mobile radio industry newsletter "Industrial Communications" reported that one of the items to be contemplated in the FCC's Information Request into land mobile spectrum policy will be the consideration to reallocate the spectrum from 220-225 MHz.

This decision appears to come directly from the FCC's Office of Science and Technology. Just before press time, Westlink learned that if approved, the so-called reallocation will call for the removal of all Amateur Radio activity from that band in deference to Land Mobile users of amplitude companded SSB.

Westlink Report, December 2, 1983

The nation's official timekeeper has a phone number available for the general public. The U.S. Naval Observatory's 900-410-TIME line provides a recorded verbal announcement with a constant ticking that allows time keeping instruments to be set to within 100 milliseconds. The observatory averages the time from 24 atomic clocks to maintain a single master clock at a level of accuracy that is within 1 billionth of a second per day.

Callers are charged 50 cents for the first minute and 35 cents for each additional minute, plus tax. All calls to the 900 number must be dialed directly. Thanks L.C.A.R.A. "Patch."

Westlink Report, December 16, 1983

No Code Canned!

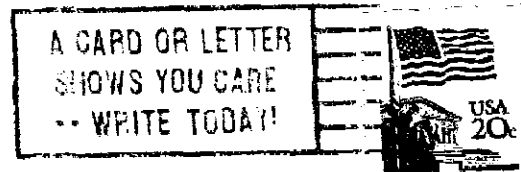
According to late word received via ARRL Bulletin, on December 14 the FCC rejected any type of no code license. The vote of the Commissioners was unanimous. Thanks N1ADY.

The Spark Gap



**WELLESLEY
AMATEUR RADIO
SOCIETY**

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